8 clocking said second data stream into a second FIFO buffer;

9 transmitting, over said communications link, an output bit stream, at an output data bit

10 rate, wherein each Jth bit of a sequential plurality of bits in the first data stream are

11 bits sequentially output from the first FIFO buffer, to define first bits of the output

12 bit stream, and wherein at least one bit of the sequential plurality of bits, other

13 than the first bits, is output from the second FIFO buffer, wherein the sequential

14 plurality of time periods includes at least first and second subpluralities of time

15 periods.

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1 20. (ONCE AMENDED) Apparatus for communicating at least first and second digital data

2 streams over a communications link from a source to a destination, said first data stream

3 being a synchronous data stream having a first average data bit rate, said second data

4 stream being an asynchronous data stream having a second average data bit rate,

5 comprising:

6 means for clocking said first data stream into a first FIFO buffer;

7 means for clocking said second data stream into a second FIFO buffer;

8 means for transmitting, over said communication link, an output bit stream, at an output

9 data bit rate, wherein each Jth bit of a sequential plurality of bits in said first data

10 stream are bits sequentially output from the first FIFO buffer, to define first bits

11 of said output bit stream, and wherein at least one bit of said sequential plurality

12 of bits, other than said first bits, is output from the second FIFO buffer.